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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS AND MECHANICS, AT QUINCY HALL, SOUTH MARKET STREET, WM. BUCKMINSTER, OF FRAMINGHAM, EDITOR.

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AGRICULTURE.

METINGS OF FARMERS.

We cannot doubt the good effects of Farmers' meetings. So much is yet to be learned—so much depends on experiment, that we want to learn from the experience of other farmers. We have not come to "try all things;" and we must contrive to build on the foundations which others have laid, or make no progress.

Let us not follow blindly in the footsteps of others. We should not surrender our reason to them. Our powers of judging were given us to be exercised by us but for us. We are accountable for the proper exercise of our own faculties, and it is the height of imprudence for any to say to us we are not to exercise the faculties that were given to us for our guide.

Farmers, above all men, need to inquire and learn. Mechanics learn what they call "their trade" in a short time. The house carpenter and the mason, work by the square rule. At twenty one many of them cease to learn, or think unnecessary to learn more. The shoe maker leaves his trade in three months—and, like the bee with his honey cells, his brogues of this year are as good, if not better, than his brogues of the next.

Now if the fact here presented is not sufficient, undeniably it is not, to show what per cent, should be allowed for shrinkage, in all cases, it is sufficient to show that shrinkage is an considerable matter, sometimes; and that estimates of returns founded on the weight of grain, when harvested, are not always correct.

But the farmer of twenty one has just begun to live for himself. His mind has but now begun to take root and plan and contrive. The deeper he looks into the works of nature the more anxious he is to learn more. And as the square rule cannot guide him on his way he puts out his feelings for other men.

He remembers the maxims of his father or grandfather, but he finds new questions constantly arising which require enlarged powers for judging. His sometimes gropes in darkness. Often he succeeds greatly to his expectations; yet too often is disengaged for the want of sympathy with others who are struggling, and doubting on similar subjects. His neighbors are distant, for farmers can live in villages, and he feels the want of numerous intercourse from others in the same pursuit.

Hence the property of Association. Hence the want of frequent intercourse and the interchange of opinions formed from actual trials in the field. Hence the property of Meetings, in small assemblies or in large ones, to encourage and assist each other in making improvements in the art of farming.

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Some have doubted whether any good can come out of the meetings in the State House. It is said nothing is settled, that each speaker goes away as light as he came, carrying nothing but his own opinions. This is not true. Every meeting is a great loss to those who are attending, and the square rule cannot be made to measure as many bushels of sound, merchantable corn, at the winter solstice, as it is weight.

Now as no one knows exactly why our fathers are in need of any such article, it may be proper to say that we may contrive to get along without so much expense for the same. Some farmers profit twice as much by their manures as others do. Who can say that we may not profit in such a way that one half the manure which is now used will answer as good a turn as the whole.

It is certain that in prudential meetings of this kind much will be said that is not very important. We have no lectures to lay down the laws of vegetation, or to bind us to any theories. All is free and conversational, and we are ready to listen to the suggestions of all. We cannot apply the square rule to the art of farming. No system will be suitable for all localities. Yet there are principles applicable to all.

But, seriously, we are pleased that our correspondents have taken pains to make so accurate a trial of the loss in weight in the course of four months. It is commonly supposed that one fourth should be allowed for the loss from October to January. This corn was harvested a week or two sooner, however, than the great body of our corn is in Massachusetts. Probably when it is husked in the latter part of October it would not lose more than one quarter of its weight.

It is true that in prudential meetings of this kind much will be said that is not very important. We have no lectures to lay down the laws of vegetation, or to bind us to any theories. All is free and conversational, and we are ready to listen to the suggestions of all. We cannot apply the square rule to the art of farming. No system will be suitable for all localities. Yet there are principles applicable to all.

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

SATURDAY MORNING, FEB. 17, 1849.

William Buckminster, Editor.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

On Monday the Senate of Massachusetts took up this subject and referred it to the Judiciary Committee. We are glad that our legislature is inclined to act on a matter that now engages the attention of legislators in all parts of our country. A number of the States have already passed laws exempting the homestead of the debtor from attachment and execution. Connecticut last year took up the subject, and, as we learn, passed an act exempting real estate to a small amount from being wrested from a debtor by execution.

We called the attention of our people to this matter more than a year since. And we now invite our legislators to give a little candid attention to what may be said upon it. We believe that no other editor in this city has examined the question or given an hour's attention to it.

The editor of the Courier, in his Wednesdays paper, takes up the subject and treats it as if he had not considered it very thoroughly. He professes to be pleased if any thing can be done to favor the poor, but intimates that no law could be passed that would operate equally; and if it cannot then he will have no exemption.

The editor says—"Homesteads are not the only worldly possessions which an impoverished citizen would find it convenient to save from the clutches of a deputy sheriff. Let there be an equal justice and equal privilege of exemption for all."

Bailey's generally pay two cents a pound more for them than for common hogs. The Middlesex breed fatten as easily as the Suffolk. They resemble the Mackays. All who have tasted of the meat of the Suffolk pronounce it most sweet and tender.

Mr. Haggerton of Watertown said he was pleased with Mr. Stickney's description of the Suffolk and Middlesex breeds. He had heard it objected that they are not apt to breed at an early age. He thinks it is because they are kept too high. The Suffolk will weigh 200 pounds at eight months, 300 pounds at one year, and 400 at eighteen months.

The quality of the pork is the best in the market.

He sold some pigs last year at 10 cents a pound. They are small breed, rather than round.

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The editor says—"Homesteads are not the only worldly possessions which an impoverished citizen would find it convenient to save from the clutches of a deputy sheriff. Let there be an equal justice and equal privilege of exemption for all."

It is in this superficial mode that many will be disposed to treat this subject; but we trust we have men in the legislature who will not be satisfied with expressing good wishes for the poor while the law lets a creditor turn a whole family into the street to stay there till it is taken into the poorhouse and supported at the public charge.

Does the Courier, understand well his own objection to the "equal" operation of exemption laws? Our statute now exempts a cow, a hog, and six swine. Why does not he complain that this is unequal? Who is benefited by this in Boston or Salem? What seamen have we protected by this law? People who have no cow, or hog, or hay, or bed and bedding, cannot expect to be favored by the exemption of such articles from execution. No law can be made to operate "equally" upon all. The man who has no property cannot possibly be favored by any exemption law. Yet he has no reason to complain of its operation upon others. It is the creditor who is apt to complain. But can he complain of the "inequality" of a law that exempts certain property of his debtor while other property is liable?

We take the ground that it is not the interest of the Commonwealth to permit any creditor to turn his debtor into the highway. All tax payers are interested to prevent crowding in the Almshouses. Traders and speculators should not be encouraged to let poor men run in debt of land which it stands on to settle up the long grocery accounts.—The bill for ardent spirits is often the heaviest of all. And it is this which too often disables the debtor from paying.

Exemption laws operate better than bankrupt or insolvent laws, for they give less encouragement to fraud. It was the want of liberality in regard to exemption that drove us to pass acts of repudiation of debts whenever the debtor felt it inconvenient to pay. Much complaint is made against our insolvent system. It is no easy matter to satisfy both debtor and creditor. But if our legislators ever expect to improve on our insolvent system, or abolish it, the first step to be taken is, to exempt a homestead for a debtor and his family, his cow, his pig, his books, and his household furniture, which the law now allows him to keep, while it takes every foot of land and the buildings in which they were kept.

If the debtor owns real estate in a city or large town, where land is high, a part of his house may be exempted from execution. It is an uncommon thing, the division of estates, to assign a single room in a large dwelling-house, to a widow, or an heir.

A proper law, exempting real estate to a small amount, will not work injustice, for it will be prospective, and will not affect debts already contracted. Let the legislature seriously consider of this thing, and the result will be beneficial to the whole Commonwealth.

ED People are still fitting out for California. The last accounts from San Francisco are as late as the 22d of December. All agree that gold dust is plenty there, but the gold hunters are "kicking up a dust" that is not so agreeable to civilized people. Lynch law seems to be the only kind that is admitted there; and sickness among the immigrants extensively prevails. It is supposed that 10,000 people have emigrated from Boston, New York and Philadelphia.

ED The best news from England is that Parliament is about to reduce the army, and keep on foot ten thousand less than last year. And the navy is to be reduced enough to save one million pounds sterling.

ED The western papers are filled with accounts of damages done by a freshet on the Ohio, Cattle, bridges, and canal boats, to a great amount, have been destroyed in towns in Illinois and in many other places on the river.

ED The house of a man named Miller at Newstead, Long Island, was burnt yesterday morning, and Mrs. Miller, five children and a servant perished in the flames.

ED The late fire in Concord N. H. was more extensive than at first supposed. Thirty thousand dollars worth of property are said to have been destroyed.

ED It is announced that the Whigs of the Ohio legislature have nominated Judge McLean for United States Senator.

ED Stephen Tripp, Esq. Providence city Treasurer, died very suddenly on Wednesday last aged 73.

ED We are told that the Vermont and Massachusetts Railways are to be opened to Brattleboro' Vt. on Tuesday next.

FIFTH AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

On Tuesday evening another meeting was held in the State House. Subject—Farm Stock.

A number of gentlemen not belonging to the legislature attended—among whom we notice Mr. Haggerton of Watertown, Mr. Sheldon of Wilmington, Mr. Pearson of Harvard, Messrs. L. Allen and J. W. Proctor of Danvers, Wm. Stickney at 99 State street, and others.

ED Mr. Wilder took the chair, and with leave read a letter from a friend at the Mount Airy institution, expressing the pleasure of the winter in reading the reports of our meetings. The writer described a breed of hogs called the "Dutchess Breed" which is much esteemed in that quarter. The meat is equal in its opinion to two pounds a day for each hog. Cattle and hogs must be kept warm to gain flesh.

ED Mr. Proctor said he once bought a lot of hogs at Brighton in October, kept them two months, and found on killing that they had each gained one pound and three fourths compared with the live weight—equal in its opinion to two pounds a day for each hog. Cattle and hogs must be kept warm to gain flesh.

ED Mr. Proctor said, on our poor farm in Danvers we make, and the farm grows richer. We feed our hogs from slaughter houses and are not obliged to work for a living. We let the hogs in still while the men mix the manure.

ED EXHIBITION OF DEAR AND DUMB PUPILS.

There was a crowd of spectators in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Thursday to witness the exercise of the pupils of the Hartford Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb under the direction of the Superintendent, Mr. Wells. The exhibition we learn gave much satisfaction.

ED AN EXCELLENT HOG. Mr. J. D. Fiske of Wilmington killed a hog in December that weighed 614 pounds, 17 months old. This does not include the infant fat which would weigh nearly twenty pounds more. This hog cut 7 inches thick on the back and was of the best quality, solid and firm. Sold at 6 cents per pound amounting to forty dollars.

ED Redding & Co., 8 State Street, have for sale in pamphlet form the twelve lectures or "Comparative Embryology" delivered before the Lowell Institute, recently by Professor Agassiz. It was reported by Dr. Stone, for the Traveller, PHOTOGRAPHICALLY—and we have seen it stated that the author pronounced the report correct and altered but one word! This pamphlet contains 100 pages. Price 25 cents. It is well worth preserving.

ED The American Metropolitan Magazine, for February, contains a fine looking view of the Chateau de St. Point, the residence of Lamartine. This is the best of the four engravings in this number. The table of contents shows an agreeable variety of original articles in prose and verse. Published by Israel Post, Broadway, N. Y. and for sale by Redding & Co., 8 State street.

ED The Mass. Temperance Convention commenced its session in this city, on Thursday, at the Tremont Temple. Officers were chosen and the question was discussed whether moral and legal susion was most effectual in promoting the cause of temperance.

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ED Mr. Stickney said he imported China pigs in 1842 but did not like them, and gave them away. Mr. Brooks of Princeton said the statements made did not alter him in regard to imported hogs. It seems they gain less than a pound a day. Mr. Stickney observes they ought not to be kept high. He thought none should be bred without crossing. A hog is valuable in proportion to the cost of raising a pound of pork, and he would ask Mr. S. the cost of keeping.

ED Mr. Stickney said he could keep three of these as cheap as two of any other breed.

ED Mr. Wm. Parker of Sudbury said he noticed a very handsome hog in a pen of his neighbor. Its form suited him exactly. He found on inquiry that the hog was of the Suffolk breed; he had seen none of them before. He had not kept any of this kind.

ED Mr. Cheever Newhall of Dorchester said, as to the weight of the Suffolks, 200 pounds at 8 months is well, but the increase afterwards is not so great as in some other breeds. He has done raising pigs, but finds he can do better to buy at Brighton. When he makes them gain one pound a day he is satisfied.

ED Mr. Elijah Perry of Dover said he thought it would be to the advantage of the steamer to know what certainty what costs of the day was laid upon the table.

ED At 12, yesterday, the Senate and House were in session receiving petitions &c., afterwards they went into Convention to fill a vacancy in Western Railroad corporation.

ED The weather continues cold with good sleighing in all directions—particularly in this city.

ED The editor accepts the invitation of the Westford Lyceum to lecture at their Hall on Friday evening next.

ED On Thursday morning a valuable school-house was burned in Ballard Vale, Andover.

BITTEN BY A DOG. Professor Felton of Cambridge was bitten in this city yesterday by a dog, who attacked him without provocation. Our informant tells us, it is the opinion of Dr. Norton of Cambridge, that there was a wide spread disease among dogs, which terminates in many cases in rabies.

There was a large meeting of citizens in Cambridge, at the City Hall, on Monday evening, at which Dr. W. Yarrow urged the necessity of proper precaution against the bites of dogs, and described a dreadful case of hydrocephalus, to which he had been witness. Strenuous resolutions were adopted. [Transcript.]

Jonathan French, of Northampton, N. H., gives an account in the Daily Advertiser, of the cure of several cases of hydrocephalus, by lobelia, administered by Dr. Benjamin Sanborn, deceased. We recollect reading in a newspaper more than twenty years ago, an account of a little girl at Seneca Lake, N. Y., being cured of hydrocephalus by the use of lobelia. [Mail.]

MILLER SENTENCED. In the Supreme Judicial Court, on Monday, the full bench being present, which consists of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth, and the Justices of the Superior Court, of which Mr. Miller, in the Municipal Court, of the crime of forging the name of S. F. Belknap to certain notes, the exceptions were overruled, and Miller was sentenced to the State Prison for nine years, three days of which are to be passed in solitary confinement. The prison was much affected and excited.

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ED The condition of society in California was terrible. Murders and robberies were of daily occurrence, and marts were growing worse. It was believed that persons and property would soon become wholly insecure.

The bill to incorporate the Cordaville Manufacturing Company, to pay to the Deputy Clerk of the House, the orders of the day were disposed of.

TUESDAY, Feb. 13.

ED In Senate, after prayer by Mr. Langdon, and the usual morning business, a number of reports were presented by committees, the chief of which were—a resolve for supplying the deficiency in the revenue of the State Prison, amounting to \$4200; and a resolve for paying the pauper accounts of the House of Representatives.

ED The bills were passed to be engrossed.

ED In the House, Among the petitions presented was one from Joseph H. Jones and three others, legal voters, and three other persons from Cambridge, for a peaceful secession of Massachusetts from the Union.

ED The Committee on the Judiciary was instructed to consider the expediency of passing a law exempting the homestead to the value of \$300 from execution.

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THE POET'S CORNER.

ON THE DEATH OF MY MOTHER.

BY PARK BENJAMIN.

Dear mother! those art gone, and I,
Thy oldest, well-loved son,
Was not thy couch of suffering by,
Nor gazed thy pallid brows open—
When like a shadow, dark and deep,
Death's angel came and bore away
Thy soul, on peaceful wings of sleep,
To regions of eternal day.

The stars摘下 are just;
But it was hard for me to know
That they had laid her in the dust,
Unsightly by such tears as flow
In torrents from these filial eyes—
When on thy ear no accents fell,
Welcome as music from the skies;
Of him thou lov'st so long and well.

I came and stood beside thy grave,
Beside the cold and wintry earth,
Where bleak winds wail and tempests rave—
So different from that pleasant bourn,
Where, in the excesses of thy smile,
The freight shed a warning gleam,
And I was happy all the while,
As in my boyhood's morning dreams.

I stood, a broken-hearted man,
Of love bereft, with hope at strife;
Feeling as if a solemn doom—
Desecrated, pall-like, on my life;
And there was nothing left between
Invaluable doom and me—
Nothing beyond that transient scene,
But our wide, blank, eternity.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

The Love Discipline.

Four months had flown swiftly away since Edward Somerton married Rose Blaud. One summer evening, towards sunset, as they sat together at a window opening on to a garden, engaged in various topics of conversation on various matters, with that interest in each other which people generally exhibit four months after marriage, Rose, for the first time began to pour Edward's heart, she said, flamed shamefully with Mrs. Harding on the preceding evening. He had spoken to her in a low tone several times, and had been heard publicly to declare that Harding was a fortunate fellow. If this were the way he meant to go on, she should be wretched, and no longer place any confidence in his affection.

"My pretty dear," said Edward, placing his arm round his wife, and accompanying the action by another ringing performance, "don't be jealous, believe me there is no cause." On one of the occasions when I addressed Mrs. Harding in so low a tone, I remarked that the room was very warm; and on another, if I remembered rightly, I observed that the last new novel was rather dull; so you will perceive our conversation was really of a most innocent description. And R., so far as I could learn, was a fortunate fellow. It is not to be inferred that I must endeavor to render him an unfortunate fellow."

This mild answer failed to turn away the words of the young man, who, however, was convinced, however, every instant more and more violent and unreasonable, and finally retired precipitately from the room, with her handkerchief applied to her eyes.

Eduard quickly put up his feet on the chair she had left vacant, and leaned back in meditation.

Here was the decisive moment which would most likely determine whether they were to dwell together for the future happily or miserably. She was a girl, indeed, but she had eyes; but she had black eyes, and they are dangerous—She had been an only daughter, too, and perhaps a little spoiled; but with fewer faults might she not have been less charming? It is worth studying how to live lovingly with such a creature, especially when you know that she bears, by her capriciousness, her own happiness, as much as yours.

Edward felt that the charge of his wife was truly a burden, and he half expected that she behaved so herself, but had resolved to be, or seem, out of humor without any particular cause. One thing was evident—that she would not bear reasoning! Something else therefore must be tried, in order to allay any future storm—for this was probably the first of a series.—Edward resolved to try music.

He was an amateur of some pretension, and he set himself immediately to call over in his memory the melodies most likely to calm the passions and soothe the nerves of the temperate.

He made choice of those which had succeeded in a graduate scale, to be used according to the exigencies of the occasion; gentle, more graceful, more tender, as the outbreak was, or became, violent, more violent, most violent. The scale contained only three degrees. As the heat rose, this conjugal thermometer fell; below the third and lowest degree, all was zero and undefined mystery. Patience acted the part of mercury reversed.

The melodies were the following, and were arranged in the following order:—"In my cottage now, now"; "Sai margine d'ru m'"; "Home, sweet home!"; They were all of a pleasing, touching character; the last purely domestic, and under the circumstances, conveying a delicate satire likely to do good. He had hitherto played these popular airs on the German flute; but he proposed now to execute them in a graceful, apparently unpremeditated, whilst

Not such a whistle as may be heard in the streets proceeding from the lips of vulgar and coarse persons, but a superior sort of thing, such as no gentleman would be likely to do.

His plan thus settled, Edward, left his mind easy, and he awaited the re-appearance of Mrs. Somerton with a gratifying consciousness of being ready for whatever might occur.

In due time came Edwad. The injured lady came too, and with a placid countenance, betraying no lingering evidence of her late unamiable expression. Her husband was not made aware of their meeting, and they were soon in conference, and then passed a delightful evening, made up of conversation, the piano, and chess.

"Well, my good lad, (for by this time I was much interested in his history,) what are you now going to do with this bad boy?" "I'm not bad, sir," said he, "I'm a son of a gun!" "Home, sweet home!" They were all of a pleasing, touching character; the last purely domestic, and under the circumstances, conveying a delicate satire likely to do good. He had hitherto played these popular airs on the German flute; but he proposed now to execute them in a graceful, apparently unpremeditated, whilst

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"Sai margine d'ru m'"; "Home, sweet home!"

"CHARCOAL SKETCHES." A day or two since, in the office of Mr. Sherman, the Warden of the House of Correction, we were witness to the arrival of a negro slave, named Edward. He was a man of more physical than mental power, and seemed to be in a state of semi-senility. He was confined to a small cell, and was compelled to work in the kitchen, and to wash the clothes of the other inmates.

"If it were any one but your wife," continued Mrs. Somerton with pointed emphasis, "you would be ready enough to come; but the wife always neglects me."

Mr. Somerton stopped whistling.

"I beg, Mr. Somerton," exclaimed Mrs. Somerton, with a withering look, that will not whistle in that very disagreeable manner whilst I am speaking. If I am not worthy of your love, I am worthy of common attention."

Edward plucked his hair, and then, with his eyes fixed upon the bust of Shakespeare, and fixed them in intense regard on a bust of Milton. He paused suddenly, and then, as he was whistling, and commenced another, it was "Sai margine d'ru m'."

Mrs. Somerton retired hastily, with her pretty face buried in a white cambric pocket-handchief.

For five whole days after this scene all was hush and沉寂. Dives might have held and envied. Honer was still to be found in the room, and no in public reference to either of the two foolish quarrels gave any, the slightest, dash of bitter.

Dot on the sixth day, there appeared dots. Edward had been hired, and had promised to bring a pair of new bracelets for Rose. He arrived home punctually at dinner-time, but without the bracelets—he had forgotten them—I put it to you whether this was not enough to try the temper of a saint? They were going the next evening to a large party, and Rose had intended to inspect the important ornaments this evening, and take Edward's opinion, so that there might be no cause for regret. Now she could not do so—and all from his horrid forgetfulness! She was quite annoyed by it, and was most annoying—it that was!

Edward made many apologies. He was sincerely sorry to have disappointed her, and even offered to return to town after dinner and repeat his neglect. On the contrary, he had no time to do so, and the reason was, that he had wished, while looking at them through the grated door of his prison, that the lesson there taught might be read by many who are pursuing a course similar to that which brought this young man into such a deplorable condition.

The first figure of the group is that of a bright boy, with milk-white hair, and the skin of a child, the other, childishly, innocently and happily pursuing the sport of youth, without a care or thought of the distant future. The next figure is that of a young man, whose excellent form, neat attire, and comely countenance, bespeak one who might command the respect of all around. The last figure is that of a person, shabbily dressed, with hair uncombed, standing behind the grated door of a prisoner's cell. Directly over the second figure were the words, "What I once was;" and over the last were the words, "What I now am!" [Cambridge Chronicle.]

having been completed with, he sketched upon the rough, whitewashed walls, two figures, nearly covering the walls on two sides of his cell. Some of them are remarkably well executed, and the heads, in particular, are strikingly expressive. One set, of three figures, conveys the lesson which could not be learned by looking at them through the grated door of his prison, that the lesson there taught might be read by many who are pursuing a course similar to that which brought this young man into such a deplorable condition.

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ing. But, in truth, there is constant improvement precisely because there is constant discontent. If we were perfectly satisfied with the present, we should cease to contrive, to labor, to strive, to gain, with a view to the future. And it is natural that, being dissatisfied with the present, we should form a too favorable estimate of the past.

In truth, we are under a deception similar to that which misleads the traveller in the Arabian desert. Beneath the caravan all is dry and bare; but far advance and far in the rear is the semblance of refreshing waters. The pilgrim hastens along, seeking for water, and before they are found, they are toiling in a soft mud. A similar illusion seems to haunt nations through every stage of the long progress from poverty and barbarism. But, if we resolutely chase the mirage backward, we shall find it recede before us into the regions of fabulous antiquity. It is now the fashion to place the Golden Age of England in those early periods when people were destitute of comforts, the world which would be intolerable to a modern nation, when farmers and simple peasants breakfasted off a log, the sight of which would raise a riot in a modern workshop; when men died faster in the poorest country air than they now die in the most pestilential lanes of our towns, and when men died faster in the lanes of our towns than they now die on the coast of Guinea. We too shall, in our turn be outstripped, and in our turn be envied. It may well be, in the twentieth century, that the peasant of Denmark may think himself miserably paid with fifteen shillings a week; that the carpenter at Greenwich may receive only shillings a day; that laboring men may live on bread and water, without meat as they now are to eat; bread; that sanitary police and medical discoveries may have added several more years to the average length of human life; that numerous comforts and luxuries, which are now unknown, or confined to a few, may be within the reach of every diligent and thrifty working man. And yet it may then be the mode to assert that the increase in the number of paupers has been greater than the progress of science, and that the paupers are more numerous than the population.

Some books have been purchased to replenish the library, and to add to the use of all the patients. As a token of their respect for their Supervisor, who has, for about ten years, been devoted to the best interests of the Institution, the patients and attendants of this society have, at an expense of six dollars, procured a portrait of her, by Mr. Osgood of Salem. It was designed that this likeness should be hung up in some suitable place in the Hospital. It is a good painting, and will be a useful ornament to the Hospital, if those who come after her shall be equally well informed. Some of the efforts of these parties go to supply articles for the show-box. We have quite a number of patients who work many curious, fancy, and useful articles, which are sold from this box. Strangers, visiting the Hospital, are often glad to procure some ingenious article, made by some of our inmates, as a memorial of their visit. There has been realized, the past year, from the profits of sales made from this box, one hundred and two dollars and fifty cents.

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patients. Some, who feel as though they cannot labor, may be induced to take exercise in this way. The in-door play, chess, cards, backgammon, riding of a soft ball over our long hall floors, such like as ninepins, grass, jumping the rope, &c.; and out-door amusements consist in the game of quoits, base ball, walking in parties, with their attendants, and alone, when the individual has gained our confidence. The double carriage has been devoted entirely to the use of the females. And the male Supervisor has, every pleasant day, carried out some of the feeble male patients in the covered horse carriage. It is our intention to have every vehicle introduced into our open air frequently, unless there is some special reason to the contrary.

The same sports parties have been continued every two weeks. These gatherings are made pleasant by the social meeting together of sixty patients, with their attendants. After sewing for about two hours, a treat is served around. Sometimes the piano helps to enliven the assembly. The greatest degree of content is here observed, as any breach, in the society, would render it very doubtful whether the affected party could receive another invitation. The patients are anxious to please, and are some of the ladies who attend the meetings. Some of the efforts of these parties go to supply articles for the show-box. We have quite a number of patients who work many curious, fancy, and useful articles, which are sold from this box. Strangers, visiting the Hospital, are often glad to procure some ingenious article, made by some of our inmates, as a memorial of their visit. There has been realized, the past year, from the profits of sales made from this box, one hundred and two dollars and fifty cents.

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Although the Company has paid its interest, divided 8 per cent, to the shareholders, provided for the Sinking Fund, and added something to the Contingent Fund; the receipts have been such as to warrant an unusual outlay in the improvement of the road. The ditches have been widened into deep, clean ditches, and the banks replaced by those weighing 14 pounds to the yard, 1,079 feet of new bridges have been erected for a second track; and a steam Ferry boat built for crossing the Hudson. Twenty-five 23 net ton engines, and 400 freight cars have been added to the stock. A large Depot has been built at Greenburgh; and about 32 miles of second track have been laid down. These numerous and expensive improvements have, as the Directors believe, enabled the Company to compete with promptness, and to the satisfaction of the public.

Notwithstanding the immense amount of travel, no accident has occurred which resulted in the injury of a single passenger. All the bridges between Worcester and Albany have been raised sufficiently high to clear the heads of persons standing on the trains.

The number of passengers in 1842, was 190,436; in 1843, 200,965; in 1844, 220,557; in 1845, 223,633; in 1846, 265,664; in 1847, 405,644. The number of tons of through and way freight in 1846, was 166,391; in 1847, 274,691; in 1848, 265,542. In the same proportion, of course, have the profits of the road increased, till, in the last year, they amounted to \$679,711.

The total cost of the construction and equipment of the Road up to Dec. 1, 1848, was \$900,153; more than a million of which was expended during the present year. The total means provided to meet this outlay are 51,500 shares of the capital stock, amounting to \$5,150,000; sterling Bonds, \$4,319,520; Albany City Bonds, \$1,000,000. Total means \$10,469,550. Expenses of construction, \$867,367. Deducting from this the amount paid to the Sinking Funds, it still leaves a balance of construction funds expended to \$109,787.

It will be remembered that 11,500 shares of the capital stock were created during the past year. The Directors still it will be necessary to create about 2000 more new shares during the present season; as it is contemplated to complete the second track between Worcester and Springfield in the fall of the year.

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